Electronic Version
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Claims

[c1] 1. A liquid dispensing system, comprising:

a valve having an inlet for receiving liquid, an outlet and an actuator;

a spout in fluid communication with the valve outlet;

a lever connected to the actuator, the lever having a closed position in which the valve is closed, and an open position in which the valve is open to allow liquid to be dispensed from the spout;

a locking member defining a notch therein, the locking member being positionable in a locked position in which the lever seats in the notch to prevent moving the lever from the closed position to the open position; and

the locking member being movable from the locked position to an unlocked position in which the lever is not seated in the notch, allowing movement of the lever from the closed position to the open position.

[c2] 2. The liquid dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the locking member is rotatable between the locked and unlocked positions.

[c3] 3. The liquid dispensing system of 2, wherein the locking

member defines a spout opening therethrough, the spout opening receiving the spout such that the locking member is rotatable about the spout.

[c4] 4. The liquid dispensing system of claim 3, wherein the locking member defines a longitudinal axis, and wherein the spout opening is generally centered on the longitudinal axis.

[c5] 5. The liquid dispensing system of claim 3, wherein the locking member defines a longitudinal axis, and wherein the spout and the lever are both generally centered on the longitudinal axis when the locking member is in the locked position.

[c6] 6. The liquid dispensing system of claim 3, wherein the notch is shaped such that movement of the lever from the open position towards the closed position causes the locking member to move to the locked position.

[c7] 7. The liquid dispensing system of claim 6, wherein the valve actuator is normally closed.

[c8] 8. The liquid dispensing system of claim 7, wherein the actuator is spring loaded such that the lever automatically moves from the open position to the closed position upon releasing the lever.

[c9] 9. The liquid dispensing system of claim 6, wherein the notch includes a radiused portion generally centered on a longitudinal axis of the locking member, the lever seating in the radiused portion when the locking member is in the locked position.

[c10] 10. The liquid dispensing system of claim 6, wherein the notch includes a radiused portion generally centered on a longitudinal axis of the locking member and a stop portion extending from the radiused portion to an outer edge of the locking member, the stop portion of the notch engaging the lever when it is moved from the open position to the closed position.

[c11] 11. The liquid dispensing system of claim 10, wherein the stop portion of the notch and the longitudinal axis of the locking member define an obtuse angle relative to the spout opening.

[c12] 12. The liquid dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the lever is pivotable between the closed and open positions.

[c13] 13. The liquid dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the lever has a first end connected to the valve actuator and a second end opposite the first, wherein the second end of the lever is located farther away from the spout when the lever is in the open position than when the lever is in

the closed position.

[c14] 14. The liquid dispensing system of claim 1, further comprising a second valve and a second lever.

[c15] 15. The liquid dispensing system of claim 14, wherein the second valve inlet is connected to a source of hot water, the second lever seating in the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position.

[c16] 16. A liquid dispensing lever lock, comprising:

a locking member having first and second ends, the first end adapted to be connected to a faucet such that the second end is movable;

the second end of the locking member defining a notch therein for receiving a dispensing lever of the faucet;

the locking member defining a locked position in which the notch captures the dispensing lever; and

the notch being shaped such that the locking member is movable from the locked position to release the dispensing lever.

[c17] 17. The liquid dispensing lever lock of claim 16, wherein the first end of the locking member defines a spout opening extending therethrough for receiving a liquid dispensing spout of the faucet such that the locking

member is rotatable about a spout inserted through the opening.

[c18] 18. The liquid dispensing lever lock of claim 17, wherein the locking member defines a longitudinal axis, and wherein the spout opening is generally centered on the longitudinal axis.

[c19] 19. The liquid dispensing lever lock of claim 17, wherein the notch is shaped such that movement of the lever from an open position towards a closed position causes the locking member to move to the locked position.

[c20] 20. The liquid dispensing lever lock of claim 19, wherein the notch includes a radiused portion generally centered on a longitudinal axis of the locking member, the lever seating in the radiused portion when the locking member is in the locked position.

[c21] 21. The liquid dispensing lever lock of claim 19, wherein the notch includes a radiused portion generally centered on a longitudinal axis of the locking member and a stop portion extending from the radiused portion to an outer edge of the locking member for engaging the lever to position the locking member in the locked position.

[c22] 22. The liquid dispensing lever lock of claim 21, wherein the stop portion of the notch and the longitudinal axis of

the locking member define an obtuse angle relative to the spout opening.

[c23] 23. A lever lock, comprising:
a locking member defining a generally cylindrical bore extending therethrough;
the locking member defining a notch therein;
the notch including a radiused portion; and
the notch including a stop surface extending from the radiused portion to an outer edge of the locking member.

[c24] 24. The lever lock of claim 23, wherein the bore and the radiused portion of the notch are generally centered on a longitudinal axis of the locking member.

[c25] 25. The lever lock of claim 24, wherein the stop surface and the longitudinal axis define an obtuse angle relative to the cylindrical bore.

[c26] 26. A liquid dispensing system, comprising:
a valve having an inlet for receiving liquid, an outlet, and an actuator;
a spout in fluid communication with the valve outlet;
a lever connected to the actuator, the lever having a closed position in which the valve is closed, and an open position in which the valve is open to allow liq-

uid to be dispensed from the spout;
and first means for locking the lever in the closed position and selectively unlocking the lever.

[c27] 27. The liquid dispensing system of claim 26, wherein the first means includes second means for automatically locking the lever in response to movement of the lever from the open position to the closed position.

[c28] 28. A method of locking a faucet dispenser lever in a closed position, comprising:
rotatably attaching a locking member to the faucet;
moving the dispenser lever from an open position to a closed position such that the dispenser lever engages a notch defined in the locking member.

[c29] 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the faucet includes a spout for dispensing liquid in response to moving the dispenser to the open position, and wherein rotatably attaching the locking member to the faucet includes inserting the spout through a spout opening in the locking member such that the locking member is rotatable about the spout.